

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 HA-05 /090 W
-----114954 110827Z /11

R 110701Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 366
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUDAPEST 0161

BELGRADE FOR CSCE DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, MBFR, PARM, PGOV, SCUL, HU, US
SUBJECT: COUNSELOR OF NIMETZ MEETING WITH HEAD HSWP FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT

1. SUMMARY: AT MEETING IN PARTY HEADQUARTERS, JANOS
BERECZ TOLD COUNSELOR NIMETZ HUNGARY APPRECIATED RETURN OF
CROWN, WHICH PROVIDED SOUND BASIS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT
OF U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. WHILE HE SEEMED EAGER TO
TAKE STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION, HE WAS CONSCIOUS THAT IN
EAST-WEST CONTEXT HUNGARY WAS OUT IN FRONT OF MOST OF
ITS ALLIES. HE STRESSED THAT PROGRESS IN SALT AND IN U.S.-
SOVIET RELATIONS GENERALLY WOULD INCREASE HUNGARY'S POSSI-
BILITIES. HE THOUGHT MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WERE MARKING TIME
BUT THAT PROGRESS WAS LIKELY AS SOON AS AN AGREEMENT ON
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SALT IS REACHED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ, JANOS
BERECZ, HEAD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF HSWP, PRAISED COURAGE AND WISDOM OF
PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO RETURN CROWN OF ST
STEPHEN TO HUNGARY. BERECZ OBSERVED THAT HUNGARY WAS

INDEPENDENT BEFORE CROWN EXISTED, HAD BEEN INDEPENDENT AT TIMES WHEN CROWN WAS NOT ON HUNGARIAN SOIL, AND SOMETIMES LACKED INDEPENDENCE WHILE CROWN WAS IN HUNGARY. HUNGARIANS NEVERTHELESS TREASURED THE CROWN AND APPRECIATED ITS RETURN. BEREZ ASSURED NIMETZ THAT HUNGARY WOULD NOT "PLAY ANY POLITICAL GAMES WITH THE CROWN." BEREZ AND HIS TWO COLLEAGUES PRESENT AT MEETING, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NAGY, AND BEREZ'S DEPUTY GYULA HORN, ALL NOTED CAREFULLY NIMETZ'S REMARK THAT IN FUTURE, PARTICULARLY DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TO SPEAK AND ACT JUDICIOUSLY AS FAR AS THE CROWN WAS CONCERNED.

3. COUNSLEOR NIMETZ EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT TREND IN HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE SAID U.S. DID NOT WISH TO HURRY THE PACE BUT ONE OR TWO MORE STEPS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MFN WOULD BE THE MOST LOGICAL NEXT STEP. PROGRESS WOULD DEPEND ON THE COURSE OF DETENTE BUT, NIMETZ CONTINUED, THE DEVELOPMENT IN DETENTE NEEDED TO BE MEASURED ON A LONG-TERM BASIS NOT DAY-TO-DAY OR MONTH-TO-MONTH. FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE, U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WOULD CONTAIN BOTH ELEMENTS OF COOPERATION AND COMPETITION.

4. BEREZ REPLIED THAT RETURN OF THE CROWN HAD
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LAI THE BASIS FOR FURTHER ADVANCING HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. AS IF HE WERE TRYING TO TOP COUNSELOR NIMETZ IN HIS WISH TO SEE IMPROVEMENT IN THESE RELATIONS, BEREZ ADDED THAT HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE THREE OR FOUR SIGNIFICANT STEPS AHEAD IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. BEREZ THOUGHT THAT IF THERE WERE PROGRESS ON SALT AND OTHER DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS THERE WOULD BE PROGRESS ON MBFR TOO. HE DESCRIBED CURRENT VIENNA TALKS AS IN HOLDING PATTERN, WHICH HE APPARENTLY REGARDED AS NATURAL. BEREZ COMMENTED THAT FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD TOLD FIRST SECRETARY KADAR THAT GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WANTED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH NEW INITIATIVES ON MBFR.

6. IN RESPONSE TO NIMETZ'S QUERY AS TO WHAT ROLE HUNGARY COULD PLAY IN CENTRAL EUROPE, BEREZ RESPONDED THAT HUNGARY COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ROLE, IN TRADE AND IN ENERGY COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION. LINKS COULD BE ESTABLISHED WITH AUSTRIA, FOR EXAMPLE.

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7. ON CSCE, BEREZ referred to COUNSELOR'S EARLIER CHARACTERIZATION OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS AS BEING BOTH COMPETITIVE AND COOPERATIVE. HE SAID SO FAR COMPETITIVE PART HAD ONLY BEEN SKIRMISHES. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC BUT STILL ANXIOUS ABOUT BELGREDE CONFERENCE FINAL DOCUMENT SAYING "ALL WOULD BE WELL THAT WOULD END WELL." HUNGARY'S PROPOSALS WOULD REMAIN CONSTRUCTIVE, BEREZ MAINTAINED. HUNGARY WANTS DETENTE BUT WHAT IT COULD DO IN FUTURE WOULD DEPEND UPON THE WORLD AND THE EUROPEAN SITUATION. THERE WAS NO SENSE GOING AHEAD, BEREZ CONTINUED, IF EUROPE WILL NOT FOLLOW.

8. COUNSELOR NEXT EXPOUNDED ON GREAT IMPORTANCE AMERICANS ATTACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. BEREZ REPLIED THAT ONE HAD TO LOOK AT HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENTS. IN THAT RESPECT, HE STATED, HUNGARY WAS NOT BADLY PLACED. KADAR, HE POINTED OUT, CONFIDENTIAL

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SEES A LINK BETWEEN DETENTE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL
AS BETWEEN SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

9. IN CONCLUSION, BEREZ TOLD COUNSELOR THAT 1977
HAD BEEN A YEAR DURING WHICH HUNGARY HAD CONCENTRATED
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978, AS
HUNGARY COMES TO HALF-WAY POINT BETWEEN PARTY CON-
GRESSES AND IN EXECUTION OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN, IT WOULD
BE CONCENTRATING ON ECONOMIC MATTERS.

10. DURING MEETING, BEREZ ALSO SAID THAT, IF ALL
GOES WELL, HE WOULD SOON BE TAKING UP COUNSELOR ON
THE INVITATION HE EXTENDED LAST YEAR FOR BEREZ TO
VISIT THE STATES.

11. MEETING WITH BEREZ WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY EUR
COUNTRY DIRECTOR ANDREWS AND EMBASSY POLOFF.

12. THIS CABLE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BUT NOT CLEARED
WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUDAPE00161
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780016-0051
Format: TEL
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780177/aaaacnek.tel
Line Count: 192
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6a95eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3795600
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNSELOR OF NIMETZ MEETING WITH HEAD HSWP FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
TAGS: PARM, PGOV, SCUL, HU, US, CSCE, MBFR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a95eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014